



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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PENSTEMON ATTENUATUS VAR MILITARIS
TAPER-LEAVED BEARDTONGUE

Taper-leaved Beardtongue is a tufted perennial with stems 10-70 cm tall, that arise from a loosely branched, woody rootstock. The deep green leaves are narrowly lance-shaped and mostly entire-margined. Basal leaves are up to 17 cm long, including the narrow petiole. The stem leaves are opposite, mostly without petioles, and are reduced upwards. Foliage is glabrous. The glandular-hairy inflorescence consists of clusters of numerous short-stalked flowers in the axils of the upper leaves. The tubular corolla is flared and two-lipped at the mouth; it is glandular-hairy on the outside, 12-20 mm long, and deep blue. The calyx is 4-7 mm long and has ovate or lance-shaped segments with white margins. The anther sacs are sparsely hairy, and open their length except where the pair join, and at the outer ends which are pouched. Flowering in July.

The combination of glandular inflorescence, entire-margined leaves, and hairy anthers separate *PENSTEMON ATTENUATUS* from most other species found at higher elevations in the southwest mountains of Montana. The variety *P. ATTENUATUS VAR PSEUDOPROCERUS* is also in our range, which differs from *P. A. VAR MILITARIS* in having anther sacs which open across the full length of the confluent pair. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.